

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05769 131337Z

46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9376

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 5769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJ: VOA COVERAGE OF ETHIOPIAN EVENTS

1. IT SEEM INEVITABLE THAT INTERNATIONAL MEDIA WILL BE GIVING
HEAVY COVERAGE TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN ERITREA,
INCLUDING USE OF ARMED PEASANT VOLUNTEERS. FACTS WILL BE HARD
TO GET, AND SENSATIONAL ALLEGATIONS OF ATROCITIES SEEM LIKELY.

2. I FULLY REALIZE THAT VOA NEWSROOM MUST HAVE LATITUDE FOR
EXERCIZING NEWS JUDGMENT, FREE OF POLICY PRESSURES. HOWEVER,
I WANT TO REITERATE WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THAT THERE MUST BE
SOME WAY FOR VOA NEWSROOM TO MAKE SURE THAT VOA DOES NOT USE
WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT ARE AT VARIANCE WITH KNOWN AND CONFIRMED
FACTS. DEPT AND USIA SHOULD FIND WAYS TO EXERCIZE GUIDANCE IN
APPROPRIATE WAYS TO ASSURE CONFORMITY WITH FACTS, WHILE STILL
PRESERVING VOA NEWSROOM PREROGATIVES.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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